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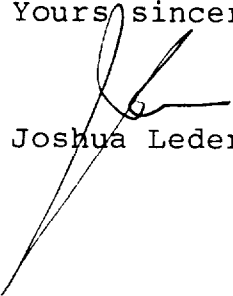
Dear John:

I have just come back from Geneva, where I did have a chance to bring up the question of the importance of calcium malnutrition as a world health problem.

The answer I got pretty consistently is that calcium just is not a problem in a third world context. Apparently calcium excretion goes along with high protein intake and so they just don't give calcium a high priority, given the usual diets. On the other hand they stress that iron is of the utmost importance. I did not, however, get enormous enthusiasm about spending very much on improving the presentation and absorbability of iron on the premise that it was cheaper to load on more iron once one had the appropriate system. However that sounds rather crude to me and some further conversations might open up useful opportunities.

By far the best contact is my old colleague from the Medical Advisory Committee of WHO, Dr. Neville Scrimshaw, who is at Harvard University in the Center for Population Studies. He won't be surprised to hear from you; and I am sure could give you very experienced and sound counsel. He chaired the panel on nutrition research at the WHO sessions I attended.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg